

WILLIAM T. RATLIFF, ADMINISTRATOR.

JANUARY 26, 1904.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed.

Mr. JOHNSON, from the Committee on War Claims, submitted the following

REPORT.

[To accompany H. R. 9851.]

The Committee on War Claims, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 9851) for the relief of William T. Ratliff, administrator of Sarah G. Clark, deceased, report that this case was referred to the Court of Claims for a finding of facts, under the terms of the Tucker Act.

This claim has been returned to Congress by the court with findings of fact.

Your committee recommend that said findings of the Court of Claims be carried out by the passage of the bill, which is in harmony with the conclusions reached by the court, and ask that said findings be printed as a part of this report.

[Senate Document, No. 17, Fifty-sixth Congress, second session.]

COURT OF CLAIMS, CLERK'S OFFICE,
Washington, December 3, 1900.

SIR: Pursuant to the order of the court, I transmit herewith a certified copy of the findings filed by the court in the aforesaid cause, which case was referred to this court by the resolution of the Senate of the United States under the act of March 3, 1887.

I am, very respectfully, yours, etc.,

JOHN RANDOLPH,
Assistant Clerk Court of Claims.

Hon. WILLIAM P. FRYE,
President of the Senate pro tempore.

[Court of Claims. Congressional case No. 9577. William T. Ratliff, administrator of the estate of Sarah G. Clark, deceased, v. The United States.]

STATEMENT OF CASE.

The claim in the above-entitled case for supplies or stores alleged to have been taken by or furnished to the military forces of the United States for their use during the war for the suppression of the rebellion was transmitted to the court by a resolution of the United States Senate on the 17th day of July, 1897.

The court, on the 22d day of October, 1900, found that the person alleged to have furnished the supplies or stores, or from whom they were alleged to have been taken, did nothing throughout that war for or against the United States or the Confederate States except to express herself in favor of the Union and to furnish food to some of the officers and soldiers of the United States Army about the time of the taking of the property for which the claim is made in this case.

On the same day the case was brought to a hearing on its merits. Gilbert Moyers, esq., appeared for the claimant, and the Attorney-General, by George H. Walker,

esq., his assistant, and under his direction, appeared for the defense and protection of the interests of the United States.

The claimant in his petition makes the following allegations:

That he is a citizen of the United States, residing in Hinds County, State of Mississippi, where decedent resided during the late war of the rebellion; that at different times during said period the United States forces, by proper authority, took from said decedent quartermaster stores and commissary supplies of the value of \$6,215 and appropriated the same to the use of the United States Army, as follows:

Taken from the decedent's premises at or near Jackson, Hinds County, Miss., in May, 1864, by General Grant's raid, and during the siege in July by the United States troops, and Sherman's raid to Meridian:

4 bales of cotton.....	\$1,800.00
Furniture, beds, bedding, carpets, rugs, damask and lace curtains, dry goods, clothing, and table linen	900.00
1 pair of carriage horses	500.00
1 pair of mules.....	350.00
1 riding horse	125.00
1 top buggy and harness	300.00
1 wagon and harness	75.00
600 bushels corn.....	450.00
Fodder and hay.....	20.00
7 cows and calves.....	350.00
3 hogs	20.00
2 hogsheads sugar	70.00
2 hogsheads molasses.....	65.00
5 barrels flour.....	50.00
1½ sacks coffee	60.00
1,600 pounds bacons and hams	142.00
200 pounds lard	32.00
2 boxes tobacco	36.00
100 pounds rice	20.00
Sundries.....	75.00
Jewelry and silverware	500.00
China and glassware.....	150.00
Paintings and bric-a-brac	125.00
Total.....	6,215.00

The court, upon the evidence, and after considering the briefs and arguments of counsel on both sides, makes the following

FINDINGS OF FACTS.

I. About two years before the war of the rebellion commenced, the husband of the claimant's decedent departed this life, leaving his widow, said claimant, surviving. During the war the claimant resided in the city of Jackson, State of Mississippi, and was the owner of two or three houses and lots in said city, and was also the owner of a plantation about 15 miles from said city.

She died in 1873, never having presented any claim for the property now alleged to have been taken to the commissioners of claims, nor to any other department of the Government, and the only reason shown therefor is that she was in ill health.

II. There was taken from the claimant's decedent, at or near Jackson, in Hinds County, State of Mississippi, during the war for the suppression of the rebellion, by the military forces of the United States for the use of the Army, property consisting of 3 horses, 1 mule, 1 wagon, 600 bushels of corn, 7 cows, 2 hogsheads of sugar, and 5 barrels of flour, which then and there was reasonably worth the sum of one thousand three hundred and fifty-five dollars (\$1,355).

No payment appears to have been made therefor.

The other items of property alleged in the petition to have been taken are not proven to have been taken or used by the United States Army, and no allowance is made therefor.

BY THE COURT.

Filed October 29, 1900.

A true copy.

Test this 14th day of November, A. D. 1900.

[SEAL.]

JOHN RANDOLPH,
Assistant Clerk Court of Claims.